



295 Washington Avenue, suite 2
Hamden, CT 06518-3025
203-288-7996
lwvct@lwvct.org www.lwvct.org

March 4, 2022

To:

Co-Chairs Senator Flexer and Representative Fox
Vice Chairs Senator Haskell and Rep. Thomas
Ranking Members Senator Sampson and Representative Mastrofrancesco
Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee

From: The League of Women Voters of Connecticut

In Support of SB 184 and HB 5264

My name is Patricia Rossi, I live in New Haven, and I am the Advocacy Vice President for LWVCT.

I speak for the State League to voice our support for the two bills before you, SB 184 and HB 5264.

These bills are designed to preserve voters' ability as we continue to experience the Covid 19 pandemic, to vote by absentee ballot though November of 2022.

We are still experiencing the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic. While current levels of infection have declined, the virus is still present in our communities. Public health experts cannot predict when the next surge will occur. Our experience this winter with the Omicron variant tells us that.

Why take the chance that another variant will keep voters away from the polls in November?

Let's settle on the rules for November elections now so voters and election officials across the state can plan for a successful election. We are sure we define success the same way: a fair, secure, election in which all eligible voters participate.

All eligible voters should be able to exercise their right to vote without worrying about exposure to Covid19 nor should those recently exposed to Covid19 lose their right to vote while they are in isolation.

We are proud of CT legislators, election officials, and poll workers for making the November 2020 pandemic-era elections safe, secure, and accessible. We celebrate the fact that nearly 80% of eligible voters cast a vote in November of 2020 – the highest percentage ever! This was a truly remarkable accomplishment.

Your role in keeping access open to all eligible voters to participate in free and fair elections is clear. This is especially true since many voters do not know that the COVID-19 excuse for casting an absentee ballot in November was a temporary exception.